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Harvard College Library

FROM

The Association



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PUBLICATIONS OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

NUMBER 5



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SAN FRANCISCO
JULY, 1904



Harvard College Library

FROM

The Association

the same book is often criticised favorably and unfavorably by two writers indicates at the least a difference of opinion. I am quite willing at the outset to concede that most book reviews are written with the intention of being just. I have been interested in noting the comments by representative authors themselves on the work of their critics, in the *Bookman*. None claims, though perhaps it would be only natural, that he has anything serious to complain of. The magazine considers the opinions expressed on the whole favorable, and sums up by saying that "it would seem that the reviewer generally read the book; and that instances of inconsistency, ignorance, and imbecility were not nearly so numerous as one might reasonably expect from the copiousness of the material and the nature of man."

There are, as I have already stated, two classes of book reviews: those written by the professional reviewer and those by the specialist. In general, it is between these two classes of reviews that we could draw a dividing-line—a line between reviews which we may accept with reasonable assurance that they are reliable, and those that we should accept with reservation. The work of the professional appears more often in the newspaper and magazine issued in the interest of the publisher, or the magazine which makes a book review depend upon an advertisement.

There is a difference of opinion as to the value of newspaper notices, though a general feeling like that expressed by James Lane Allen that the criticisms are good. They are written with more freedom and less reason for overlooking incompetence. Dr. Jastrow, of the University of Pennsylvania Library, considers them of little value because of the haste in which written.

It is an undisputed fact that many reviews are written from a very brief acquaintance with the book. An item or two from the preface, a quotation of some length with a few general thoughts suggested by it, and a vague something else. This is more often true with the professional reviewer than with the specialist.

The work of the specialist is the most valuable. It is this kind of work which appears under the name of *evaluation* in a volume like Larned's "Literature of American History." I notice, however, that so far as the Supplement volume of this book is concerned, almost without exception the criticisms are extracts from reviews which have appeared in the *American Historical Review* and the *Nation*.

I was interested in getting as a reply from a professor of history, concerning the value of reviews that appeared in the *Nation*, that they were "unreliable."

To show that even the work of a specialist may have defects, let me give one or two quotations. The preface of Larned's "Literature of American History" states that even though the information (the book reviewing) is given by "critics of recog-

nized acumen" there is "no claim to finality." In other words, we must take the statements as being the expression of certain scholars whose opinion may be reversed or modified by other scholars or new developments. A professor of botany told me—and he had at one time expressed in writing his opinion of book reviews—that in the case of botanical works ninety per cent of the reviews were unfair. He also said that the best general text-book on the subject of botany issued since the days of Asa Gray received scanty review. On the other hand, a professor of physiology told me that the reviews by specialists in his subject could generally be relied upon. For literature in general, he placed no dependence upon book reviews.

Now of what value can book reviews be to the librarian? Are they indispensable? Would we, if we could by a vote, rid our newspapers, magazines, and reviews of the review page? I do not believe it. At the least, to go over them is like running over the backs of books on library shelves. They serve as bibliographies in any case. But reviews are proper literature for a librarian to read weekly if he is to know something about everything. He is frequently asked concerning the value of a new book that possibly he has not seen, and of which his only means of knowledge is through the book review. He need not take as gospel truth everything he reads any more than he accepts information given in any other way. His main idea would be to distinguish between the high-class and the inferior reviews. The value of a review is increased if the writer is known. The signed articles are the more reliable. The reviewer often has a bias, a hobby, which it is well for us to know. But knowing this, the review carries weight in the same way that opinions in other things carry weight.

Some scholars claim that a just estimate of any learned book cannot be made by contemporaries. This is especially true of books which are ahead of the ideas of the time. We know that many works that are now considered classics received the scantiest recognition at the time they were written.

What is the value of the book review to the librarian in book buying? Here much depends on the system under which books are bought, and the kind of books purchased. Where fuller information is desired concerning the book than that given by the title, the book review is desirable. The chief value of a book review is not the criticism, but the indication of how the subject is handled and a suggestion as to what the book contains.

For my own part, book reviews have not determined very largely what books shall be selected. This is probably not the experience of the public library, in contrast to the college library. I have had books of a general nature recommended for purchase by instructors in the university, with the comment that they had noticed it very favorably mentioned. These instructors *do* depend—so far as my experience goes, and others in similar

positions corroborate the statement—they do depend largely upon reviews for advice. Their lists are made up largely from these reviews. I have taken pains, however, to ask several whom I have seen if the fact that a book received unfavorable comment deterred them in any way from buying or wishing to see the book. The answer has been *no* in every case. The book goes on to their list if it gives promise of being what they are looking for.

My own acquaintance with men who are not professional reviewers, but who still are in the habit of writing reviews, is that the reliable reviewer will not handle books outside his own specialty, nor will he notice any book which he does not consider of value. I have typewritten from dictation reviews of books, the reading of the book and the dictating of the review being done at the same time the typewriter was printing it—all within from fifteen to thirty minutes. Usually the object of the book as stated in the preface was reworded, readable quotations with comments made, and a general criticism. Taking another viewpoint, I have known a book to be placed on the market, written after years of study by one whose entire life-work had peculiarly fitted him, not only for authorship, but for fairness in discussing historical subjects, a man whose career in college was brilliant, and who has since been prominent in the thought of the time. The book no doubt was partisan in the best sense of the word, but written with the desire to be impartial and to show facts exactly as they were. The light-weight reviews were sugary; the reliable class of two kinds: those criticising favorably the position taken by the author, and those opposed; the one giving every indication that the book was a valuable contribution to history; the other giving thrusts that were not always consistent with dignity.

Do you who find reviews handy, either in forming an estimate of a book or in determining its value for your purchase list, wish to know what you shall do with the reviews which appear in the *Dial*, the *Critic*, the *Lamp*, *New York Times Saturday Review*, and other like publications? I can neither say, disregard them, nor depend upon them. They are of value (1) as book lists; (2) as throwing much light on the contents of the book. But when criticisms are indulged in, accept them slowly.

The quarterlies and reviews which deal with their own special subjects are more reliable. In them dignity is not so often sacrificed to haste. The *American Historical Review*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Geographical Journal*, *Psychological Review*, etc., may be mentioned of this type. In them there is often a valuable contribution to the subject by the reviewer himself. These reviews are generally clear, readable, and written with such care and fairness that even the author may await them without dread.

SOME NOTES ABOUT BULLETIN WORK.*

BY MRS. ALICE G. WHITBECK, MECHANICS' INSTITUTE LIBRARY,
SAN FRANCISCO.

In speaking about bulletin work, I refer especially to posted lists of books attractively printed and illustrated by pictures. The term illustrated bulletin has been chosen for those intended for adults and picture bulletins for the ones for children's rooms. The distinction may perhaps seem a trifle fine, but when we speak of illustrated magazines and picture-books we identify at once the one with adults, the other with children; so with bulletins.

The excuse for the bulletin in the children's room is to attract first the eye of the child by the well-chosen pictures, next by the list of books, well printed or neatly typewritten. This list of books must not be too long, for that is discouraging; but it must be tempting,—in other words, "sound good." The bulletin-board serves as the children's catalogue.

Children love holiday celebrations of days, so naturally the librarian turns to the usual Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Decoration Day, and Fourth of July holidays for her inspiration. Generally on these days, exhibits and appropriate decorations give the library an air of festivity. A bird day was planned in one library, when everything possible was done to make the day a joyful one. Bright, attractive bulletins, with well-chosen lists of books, birds mounted, flowers, and singing birds, helped to make the occasion and the little talk on a few of the birds and their habits one to be long remembered. An Indian day was held in one of the libraries that I visited. Besides the bulletins and historical objects exhibited, talks on Indian legends and history of the Indians were given and listened to with breathless interest.

The ever-occurring birthdays of great men, presidents, poets, and artists all serve for opportunities to suggest reading that the child might otherwise not choose for himself. I have mentioned the exhibits, although they are not included in my topic, because I found in visiting children's rooms the two seemed to go hand in hand.

I had the pleasure of visiting Pratt Institute Library at Easter time. Beautiful mounted pictures, illuminated texts, and lists of books filled the walls of the reading-room. I could not help but feel that there were really too many good things for one feast. The Philadelphia Free Library had a bulletin on the

* A paper read before the Association, February 12, 1904.

Hawaiian Islands profusely illustrated by pictures; on a screen near by were exhibited a model of a surf-boat, baskets, clubs, and fans made by the natives. Another screen on Samoa had several kinds of war-clubs, beads, thatched huts, and other island curiosities. These were loaned by a boy whose father was a sea-captain and had visited the places in question. In another part of the same room was a beautiful set of Indian pictures with books near by illustrating the bulletin. At the time of my visit, the Carnegie Library at Washington was too new to have done anything in this line. Newark had many beautiful pictures on the walls, but no special exhibit or bulletin on hand.

One really good picture is more effective than many ordinary ones. A balance in the placing of pictures must be preserved. One great fault is, that in the endeavor not to have the pictures look set, the maker tries an artistic mix-up, the result is anything but artistic and totally lacking in dignity. As the pictures at hand are often of various sizes, they must be placed more or less irregularly; if so, there must be an irregular balance. The same balance of tone and color must be preserved. Miss Clark, of Washington, D. C., gives an account of bulletin-boards from a decorative point of view, in *Public Libraries*, July, 1903, in which she explains minutely this principle of balance.

Many who can prefer to print their lists, but there are a number of advantages in the neatly typed lists just tipped at the corners. They can be removed and added to more easily than the printed ones. The cost of the bulletin can be as much or little as one chooses; sheets of cardboard, 3 for 25 cents, Perry & Brown pictures, from 1 to 5 cents, sum up the average cost. The current periodicals furnish very good pictures of men and places, particularly *World's Work* and *Country Life in America*.

Very often one can pick up a good picture sent as a supplement to an art journal. At all events, if you wish to make bulletins for the children, preserve any and all pictures that you can find, no matter what the subject, and they will come into use. File them in manila cases with class number, and you will be pleased and surprised at your collection in a short time. A number of firms advertise bulletin pictures, notably Prang Educational Company, which advertises very effective colored prints; the Detroit Photography Company (colored pictures); Earl, Thompson & Co., 1-cent blue prints; Nature Study Publishing Company, colored plates of birds, animals, and minerals; the Perry & Brown and Cosmos pictures are of course familiar.

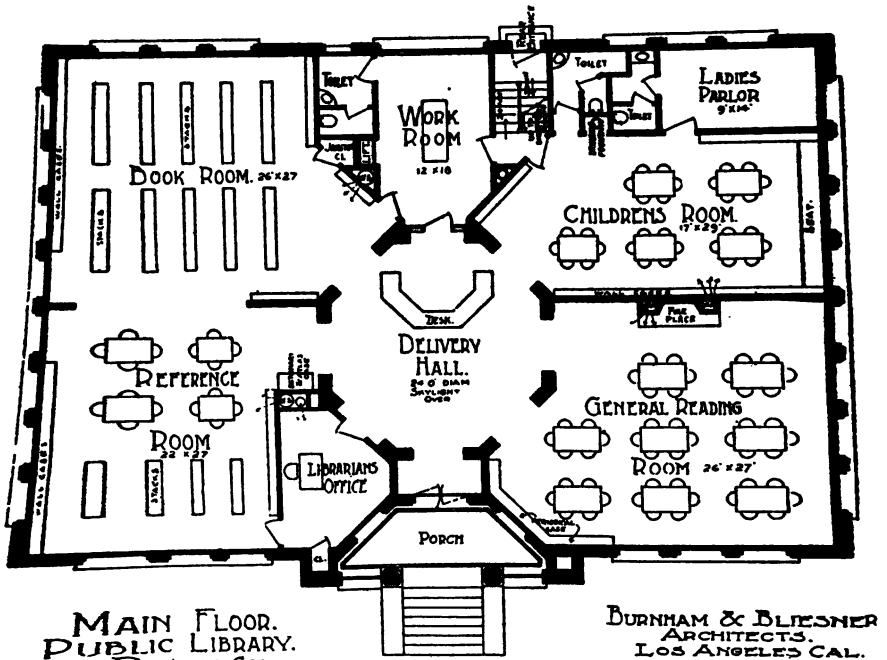
Tacking mounted pictures or lists of books on a bulletin-board does not have the same effect as a picture bulletin. If one has shelf room near by for the books mentioned on the bulletin, so much the better. Many devices are used to attract the eye of the child,—e. g., the ladder arrangement of books. That is, different carefully graded lists of books chosen with the idea of mental climbing, attractively printed on sheets of card-

board. Each child selects his own ladder, and when it is finally mounted his name is entered on the roll of honor. Not only has the device to catch the eye been used for the child exclusively, but it has been found very useful for the adult,—the studious one who wants to take up some line of serious reading; the aimless one who wants something new, good or "different"; the club woman who wants to be informed on some current topic. I might enumerate cases indefinitely. For each and all the illustrated bulletin fills the need. For example, among the very attractive popular bulletins made in Albany was one called Henry Van Dyke. It contained a brief list grouped under (1) out-of-door books; (2) stories, poetry, religious books, Van Dyke year-book, biographical sketches. There was an alluring angling picture, a portrait of Dr. Van Dyke, also the well-known *Outlook* reprints of his "Courage" and "Footpath to Peace." One woman who said she had rarely read anything but fiction was so charmed by the book she selected that she willingly tried a second from the list.

"Sea-Stories" was an ingenious illustrated bulletin by another student. "Athletics of Yesterday" represented the athletic sports and games of the Greeks and Romans, also the modern revival of the Olympian games that were described in magazine articles or parts of books. A fine copy of the "Disc Thrower" and of a chariot race stood out in bold relief on a dead-black background. "Japan" was pictured by a beautifully colored picture of the Island Empire, accompanied by a list of fourteen books. "Social Settlements" showed the excellent picture of Jane Addams taken from *World's Work*, also many settlement pictures of children enjoying the library, roof-garden, and music hour. "Richard Wagner," "Our Navy," "Men of Achievements," and numerous others show by their circulation that even the adult does not disdain the illustrated bulletin. It seems to me to be a very good way to coöperate with women's clubs. They are, as we know by our own clubs, interested in subjects of local and civic interest, and with an objective point in view, they set out to accomplish their end. In a way, the library can aid them by illustrated bulletins; a good list of books and magazine articles placed near can do very much toward moulding the public taste. For example, the beautifying of Telegraph Hill could be made the subject of a list of books and articles on landscape gardening, parks, and street improvement. The periodicals furnish much of this reading matter. The preservation of Mt. Tamalpais as park or reservation calls for many articles to be found in recent periodicals and books of forestry. In any case, the wisely made bulletin will draw the reader's attention away from the fiction table, where nothing but the book freshest from the press is of interest, and by some chance his or her taste may be diverted into other channels.

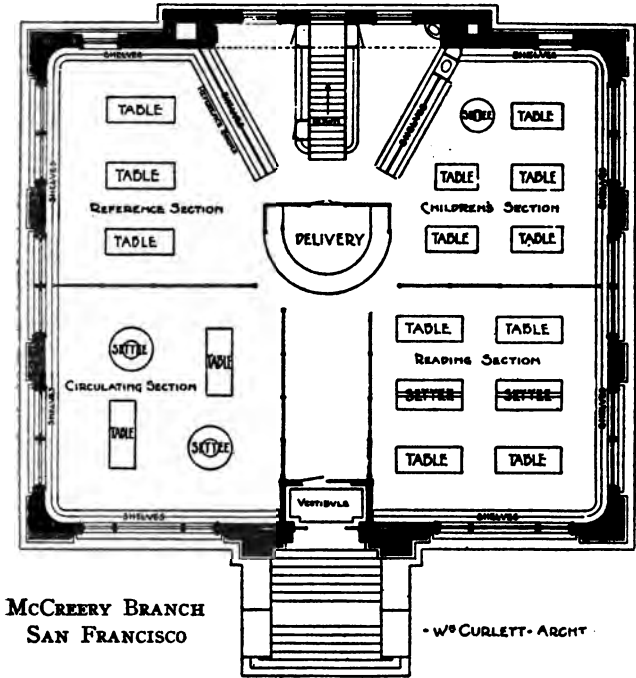
I can hardly close without mentioning a few of the various

forms of bulletins that are not illustrated. The Newark Public Library prints for distribution a series of cards, samples of which I have brought with me this evening. These contain lists of books, ten in a group with call number. You will see that science and the arts are well represented. In the Springfield (Mass.) Public Library I found a series of bookmarks that are issued by the Wisconsin Library Commission. These contain graded lists of books for the youngest reader to the high-school student. In Springfield, I understand they are used as a reward for clean cards. They could be used to advantage as the lists on a picture bulletin. I have a few of the small cooperative lists furnished by the New York Library Commission. These are posted as suggestions or placed in a tray for distribution.



**THE McCREERY BRANCH LIBRARY, SIXTEENTH
STREET, NEAR MARKET STREET,
SAN FRANCISCO.**

1. General description of building. A one-story and basement building, classic style of architecture, 61 feet 8 inches by 71 feet 8 inches. The basement ceiling is 12 feet high and that of the main story 23 feet 10 inches. The walls up to the water-table are of Colusa stone; above that of pressed Roman brick and



• MAIN FLOOR PLAN •

terra cotta. The roof is of slate. Cost, \$43,000, exclusive of stone bulkhead and iron fence.

2. A large room, size 60 by 70 feet, undivided by partitions. The four departments are separated by rails converging at the delivery-desk. In order to get in or out of any section it is necessary to pass by the delivery-desk.

3. The delivery-desk is so arranged as to command an unobstructed view by one attendant of every part of the room. It is semi-circular on a 7-foot radius, and has accommodations for receiving or issuing books at three stations simultaneously.

4. The reference section is placed convenient to the desk, as most frequent consultation is required between its users and the librarian.

5. The children's section is placed convenient to the desk for ready oversight and direction by the librarian.

6. The circulating section is for books other than reference and juvenile. Books taken from the circulating shelves, as well as magazines and newspapers, are to be used in the reading section.

7. The shelving, excepting four cases extending from the rear walls on radial lines with the desk as a center, is around the walls only. Capacity, 15,000 volumes. Dimensions of wall cases: 7 feet high; shelves 36 inches long by 7½ inches wide. The bottom shelves are 13 inches wide. At the height of 19 inches a 6-inch ledge covered with corrugated rubber serves as a step, so that short and tall alike can reach the topmost shelves. The projecting cases have wider shelves and are made to hold larger books.

8. Lighting. Natural, from windows at front and sides. Height from floor, 7 feet. Artificial, by electric light.

9. Ventilation. By flues leading to a shaft in the rear wall, in which a current will be induced by a burning jet of gas.

10. Heated by hot air from a furnace in the basement.

Extravagance in library building is not so often found in lavish ornament as in that unfortunate arrangement of departments which requires three attendants to do the work of one or two.—*W. R. Eastman.*

ON THE SELECTION OF BOOKS FOR A SMALL PUBLIC LIBRARY.*

BY GEORGE T. CLARK, LIBRARIAN SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

One of the leading American libraries spent for books last year something more than \$50,000. Another spent more than \$40,000 for the same purpose, and figures from all the public libraries in the United States would doubtless show book expenditures varying from these amounts on the one hand to the vanishing point on the other. The library with \$40,000 or \$50,000 in its book fund can buy practically all current publications worthy of a place on its shelves, and also do something towards filling up lacunæ that may exist in its collection. But a library that may not spend more than \$50 or \$100, or possibly \$200, in a year must dispense with many much desired books and cut out from the list all but those in most urgent demand. How rigid the exclusion must be is strikingly apparent when we remember that between 7,000 and 8,000 new books are published annually in the United States alone. In addition to the more important current publications, a library wants to do something each year in the way of building up its collection by acquiring books which have attained a permanent place in literature. Generally speaking, the difficulty of making proper selection increases as the amount of the book fund diminishes. The library with a small allowance must use more discrimination, must weigh the merits of every item more carefully, and finally reject more numerous than the library with a fund that enables it to order freely. The object of this paper is to state briefly a few considerations of possible value to those on whom rests the responsibility of selecting books for small libraries. One of the chief functions of a public library is to make books accessible to those who otherwise would be deprived of them. That is, in most communities there are many not in a position to purchase books for themselves; others who lack the incentive to use books, and more whose acquaintance with books and literature is rudimentary. For such as these should the library be shaped. It must have books that will appeal to those whose literary appetite is not acute and those whose taste might perhaps be more discriminating. But the tendency in reading is constantly toward better and better books, and the library will therefore be a civilizing and uplifting force. We want books that will be read and we want also the

* The substance of a talk before the Association, March 11, 1904.

best books that will be read, and it would be an injudicious use of public funds to buy meritorious books merely because they are meritorious unless they will meet some actual demand. For example, the recently published "Jesuit Relations" is a work of great historic value, but it is of interest to few excepting specialists in history, and a small library can make a much wiser investment.

In making up book-lists it is well to avoid too hasty inclusion of new books. Wait until you are satisfied as to their merits before you order. The temptation to buy the widely advertised and much-talked-about novel is strong, but in nine cases out of ten the popularity is short-lived and dies out immediately after the publisher ceases to push the sale. It is better to wait in all doubtful cases until the book has established a place for itself than to burden your shelves with books of ephemeral popularity, lacking the elements which will cause them to endure.

When a definite sum is set aside for the purchase of books it is a good plan to apportion this sum to the various classes of books according to the needs of the library. Thus one sixth of the whole might be allowed for history and biography, one twelfth for travel and geography, one sixth for fiction, and so on. In this way extremes are avoided and the collection is kept within proper proportions.

Dependable information relative to the merits and demerits of new books is not readily obtainable. Books of little merit are oftentimes favorably reviewed, and, on the other hand, some books which have worked their way to the front have come from the press unheralded. Where personal knowledge or inspection is impracticable, it is well, as already stated, to await the test of time. In every community there are some classes of technical books possessing peculiar local interest. In the fruit-growing sections libraries should give prominence to books on horticulture, soils, pests, irrigation, etc. In a manufacturing community another class of books would be appropriate, while in a mining section books on geology, mining engineering, and mineralogy should be available. Concerning all such technical books, sound advice may readily be obtained, as a rule, from experts who speak from actual knowledge.

On the children's section of the library the utmost care should be exercised, for here the habits of the readers are in the formative process, and the influence of the books is far-reaching. With the numerous guides and selected lists now available, a good selection can be made without difficulty. But there is a possible danger of setting the standard too high, of carrying the refining process too far, by gathering a collection of books the children ought to read rather than one they will read. The library should be attractive to the children, so that having once come they will continue to do so. To this end the books must be of a character to appeal to a variety of

tastes. When the library habit has once been formed the quality of the reading will not suffer.

In conclusion, it may not be out of place to say a few words relative to editions. Where there is a choice, as there is in the case of many standard books no longer protected by copyright, due consideration for the eyes of readers requires a careful selection. If possible avoid editions printed from small type and old and battered plates. Endeavor to select the best editions, both editorially and mechanically. Experience with the character of the work of the various publishing houses frequently enables one to know which to avoid, and from which the best work may be expected.

A STATE LIBRARY PUBLICATION.

A descriptive list of the libraries of California, compiled under the direction of James L. Gillis, State Librarian, has just been issued in the shape of a well-printed and handsomely illustrated pamphlet of 134 pages. A map of the State is in front, showing the location of libraries of different kinds, including the State's traveling libraries as at present located. This map is a highly interesting and instructive object for study.

The handbook opens with a description of the State Library and its work. Then follow, alphabetically, the public libraries. Of each a short sketch is given, the name of the librarian, and a few pertinent statistics. The libraries other than public are treated separately in the same way, but more briefly. Then follow a specimen list of a traveling library, a classified list of fifty-six books on California (annotated), and a list of fifty books on Russia. Another useful feature is an alphabetical list of libraries and library employees, giving nearly three hundred names.

Such a handbook has been needed for reference purposes, and is moreover useful as presenting in concrete shape what we lack, as well as what we have in the way of libraries.

WHAT A TOWN CAN DO FOR A LIBRARY.*

BY CHARLES S. GREENE, LIBRARIAN OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The first thing that a town can do for a library is to get one. There is now no town in California so small or so isolated but that, with very slight effort, it can have a public library. For incorporated towns the liberal law of 1901 requires merely the signatures of twenty-five per cent of the voters to a petition to make the establishment and support of a library by the town fathers mandatory. If a town is not incorporated it may still secure free books by applying to the State Librarian, Sacramento, for one of the State's traveling libraries.

The next thing that a town can do is to see that its library has good officers. A good board of trustees is really the most important thing about a library, for they will see to it that there is a good librarian. A librarian cannot do his best work without a board of trustees back of him, solid as a rock in his support.

As to the things that individuals can do. It has been said that the unpardonable sin against the public library is to stay away from it. Everybody can use the library, and in a place where all the people visit it and learn its benefits and see its needs the future of a library is perfectly safe.

Another thing that all can do for a library is to obey its rules cheerfully and exactly. The rules are made for the benefit of the public and not for the good of the staff.

Almost everybody can occasionally give a book to the library. Many times when you have read a book and have loaned it to your immediate friends, you do not care to keep it longer. Everybody can help the library gather a complete collection of all matter (however ephemeral) pertaining to its locality, which every public library should have.

Very many people can help in making a library attractive by the occasional loan of a good picture. In Oakland we have for five years kept up a loan exhibit, with from eight to a dozen paintings on our walls at all times. Artists are glad to loan us canvases, for we take good care of them, and make a note of each new one in the press. Wealthy people that are going out of town for a season often lend us their art treasures.

The Teachers' Club of Alameda County, desiring to have within reach the latest and best books on pedagogy, yearly gives to the Oakland Public Library \$50 to be thus expended, with the condition that the library spend a like amount. This plan

* Abstract of a paper read before the Association, April 9, 1904.

is open to a multitude of other clubs, musical, literary, and the like.

The Los Angeles Board of Education sets a good example of helpfulness to the public library. It turns over yearly to the latter institution all its school library money, thus enabling the library to buy all needed copies of books used by the schools. Los Angeles realizes, as other towns should, that the public library is the proper and best distributing medium for literature of this kind.

Let not any one say of these suggestions, "Oh, but these are all little things!" That is quite true, but if everybody, all the time, should keep doing the little things, think what a great thing the result would be. And I would by no means discourage the doing of larger things by those able to do them. Not everybody can be a Carnegie, but there is no better way for a wealthy man to share the fruits of his success with his less fortunate neighbors than by means of the public library. Sometimes the plea is made that the public library is supported by taxation, and should therefore be left to public support. But no town has ever yet dared to tax itself up to the amount that its library ought to have to do the best it is able for the community.

Santa Cruz has lately furnished a good illustration of what a town can do for its library. At the opening of the new Carnegie building in April a three days' loan exhibition was held in the library, for which the best homes poured out their treasures until hardly a foot of space in the library was left uncovered. Paintings, Indian baskets, old lace, china, and a multitude of other valuable and interesting things were on view. The florists of the town combined to decorate the rooms with their choicest plants and flowers, and seemingly every organization in town, as well as many individuals, contributed some item of furniture to complete the library's new home. Many of these gifts were costly and, above all, useful. Many individual sums of money, ranging from \$250 down to \$1, were given. Throughout the three days an entrance fee was charged—10 cents in the afternoons, 25 cents at night. Over \$300 were thus collected. The striking feature in all this was the widespread interest that the town took in the opening of the library and in seeing it wants properly cared for.

NEWS AND NOTES.*

The outing of the Library Association of California—the first one taken by the Association—to San Anselmo, Marin County, on Decoration Day, was enjoyed by about thirty members and their friends. Lunch was enjoyed under the trees. The views from the hillsides were charming. Before leaving for home a photograph of the party was taken.

The Oakland Library Trustees supplied substitutes for those of their attendants who went to the Santa Rosa Conference of our Library Association.

One of the traveling libraries from the State Library that was sent to Porterville is responsible for the starting of a public library in that city.

Stanford University Library has founded a club with fifteen members of its staff. Discussion of library topics and social relations are sought.

Professor H. Morse Stephens lectured May 24th, by request of the History Club of Los Gatos, for the benefit of the public library.

The California Federation of Women's Clubs has sixty-two traveling libraries in use.

For rapid growth of town and early appreciation of a public library, Laton, in Fresno County, is noteworthy. Four years ago the town did not exist. Now there are 300 people, 1,700 more on the adjoining Laguna de Tache Grant, and a \$2,000 library building, just completed, through the liberality of Nares & Saunders, the managers of the grant.

The peculiar configuration of Nevada City and the occupation of nearly all available central lots has made the choice of a site for the Carnegie building quite a difficult problem. The selection was finally made of a lot owned by the county, with a frontage of 160 feet opposite the Court House and an average depth of 72 feet, for which the nominal sum of \$500 was paid at auction.

Entertainments and lectures for the Oroville Library netted \$294. Can any other place make a better showing?

Napa Library allows books to be ordered by telephone and delivered at the house for five cents.

Selma, Fresno County, people have presented a petition to their City Trustees for the establishment of a library. At an entertainment for the benefit of the projected library, Mr. Greene's Santa Rosa paper, "What a Town Can Do for a Library," was read.

* Furnished by William P. Kimball.

Our neighbors in Oregon and Washington are greatly encouraged by Mr. Carnegie's offers. It is true that Grants Pass, a city of 3,000 population, saw fit to decline the offer of \$10,000. But Eugene, the seat of the State University, after much discussion, accepted a proposal for a like amount. Salem, the capital of Oregon, and Albany, a flourishing city, have just made a beginning of their public libraries. In each of these three successful efforts the initiative was taken by women's clubs. The work of the Portland Public Library,—which uses the building and books of the Portland Library Association under a long lease,—for 1903 has been strong and has brightest promise.

Ballard, Washington, opens its \$15,000 Carnegie building June 17th. This building has the novel features of a smoking-room, where men can read and smoke, and a conversation-room for women.

The Yakima Library Association presented its property, valued at \$4,000, to the city of North Yakima, Washington, at the time of the city's acceptance of a \$10,000 Carnegie offer.

Seattle has lately let a contract for the new \$200,000 Carnegie library. The old library home was burned in 1901. Recent word comes from London that Mr. Carnegie has added \$20,000 to the original gift, that certain desirable features may be included in the designs for the building.

Miss Nellie Russ, librarian of the Pasadena Public Library, will spend her three weeks' vacation in June at Yosemite.

Mrs. H. P. Davison, of the San Diego Library, has made plans for a trip to St. Louis.

Miss Mabel E. Prentiss, the Pomona librarian, has leave of absence for several months to attend the Albany Library School for a course in reference work and bibliography.

A number of portfolios of fine reproductions of art are being circulated by the California Club of San Francisco, the Kingsley Art Club of Sacramento, and the Ebell of Los Angeles.

The State Library's traveling library system has been in force about six months, the first library having been sent to Auburn, December 14, 1903. Nearly fifty localities have already availed themselves of the privilege—from Modoc north to Orange south. A traveling library contains an assortment of fifty books, good editions and clean copies. One will be sent to any community in California without a public library on the application of five resident taxpayers. A fee of three dollars for each library is charged to cover transportation. With each library is sent the necessary printed instructions and blanks for loaning books, etc., and also a supply of printed catalogues of the collection. With the first library sent to any community is included a neat book-case. Each library may be retained for three months, and by special permission renewed for a like period. The State Librarian, Sacramento, will gladly supply any information.

The service that the Bodley Club department of the Book-lovers' Library offers to public libraries is briefly as follows: A supply of Bodley Club books may be borrowed for a given period, with the privilege of returning portions of the lot at intervals within the period for which the whole supply is loaned and of receiving for them fresh books. The books furnished are such as appear on the Booklovers' lists up to three months previous to the date of order, which means quite recent books as public libraries go. The cost averages about one dollar a year per volume up to two hundred books, decreasing for larger quantities. The public libraries of Santa Cruz, San José, Los Gatos, Santa Clara, and Alameda are using the books. Santa Cruz charges a five-cent fee for them, and has made almost enough out of the first year's lot to pay in advance for the second year's. This system would seem to offer several advantages, especially to the smaller library, to-wit: 1. The great difficulty of an adequate and timely supply of new books is met, if not wholly overcome; 2. The librarian has the privilege of trying before buying; and 3. Obviates the necessity of excessive duplication of temporarily popular books.

TWO IMPORTANT MEETINGS.

Two important meetings of the Association are already scheduled for the fall and early winter. The first will be at Santa Cruz September 4th and 5th (Labor Day, a legal holiday). The "Essentials of Library Work" will be the theme, and papers discussing its various phases will be prepared in all parts of the State. ESSENTIALS will be the keynote.

A Sacramento meeting will follow shortly after. The exact date has not yet been fixed, but it will probably be around the first of November. At this meeting proposed legislation of great importance to California libraries will be discussed.

It is hoped that all California librarians, assistants, and trustees who can get away from their work will gather at one or both of these meetings. A profitable and stimulating as well as a good time is assured.

Arrange your vacation with these dates in view. Santa Cruz is delightful in September; Sacramento, also, you cannot afford to miss.

TWENTY-FIVE GOOD BOOKS ON CALIFORNIA.*

- AIKEN, C. S. California To-Day. 1903.
- AUSTIN, MARY. Land of Little Rain. 1903.
- BORTHWICK, J. D. Three Years in California. 1857.
- BRYANT, E. What I Saw in California in 1846-'47. 1848.
- COLTON, REV. W. Three years in California. 1854.
- DANA, R. H., JR. Two Years Before the Mast. 1840.
- ENGELHARDT, FATHER Z. The Franciscans in California. 1897.
- HITTELL, T. H. History of California, 4 vols. 1886-1897.
- JAMES, G. W. Travelers' Handbook to Southern California.
- KING, CLARENCE. Mountaineering in the Sierra Nevada.
- MUIR, JOHN. The Mountains of California.
- . Our National Parks.
- PARSONS, MARY E. Wild Flowers of California.
- ROBINSON, ALFRED. Life in California (1828-1846). 1891.
- ROYCE, JOSIAH. California, 1846-1856. (American Commonwealths.) 1886.
- SHINN, C. H. Mining Camps. A Study in American Frontier Government. 1886.
- TAYLOR, BAYARD. El Dorado. 1850.
- UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. Climatology of California. By A. G. McAdie (Weather Bureau Bulletin L). 1903.

* See, also, the list of fifty-six books on California in the "Libraries of California," lately issued by the State Library.

VAN DYKE, T. S. Southern California. 1886.

WARNER, C. D. Our Italy. 1891.

WATTS, W. L. Oil and Gas Yielding Formations of California. (California State Mining Bureau, Bulletin 19). 1900.

WHEELOCK, MRS. I. G. Birds of California. 1904.

WHITNEY, J. D. Yosemite Guide-Book.

WICKSON, E. J. California Fruits.

——. California Vegetables.

The California Federation of Women's Clubs has just issued a revised edition of its pamphlet containing the general library law of California of 1901. There is also included a list of the incorporated cities and towns of the State entitled to public libraries under this law. Those which already have them are starred. There are all too many flourishing towns not so marked. Copies of the pamphlet may be obtained from Miss S. Patch, 1521 Clay Street, San Francisco, the Chairman of the Federation's Library Section.

Mark this on your calendar: "The Santa Cruz meeting of the Association, September 3-5th. I cannot afford to miss it."

LIST OF MEMBERS.

- ARMSTRONG, MRS. LESLIE L.....Public Library, Calistoga
ARNOLD, MISS VERA.....Public Library, Sacramento
- BARMBY, MISS MARY.....Public Library, San José
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- BELFRAGE, DAVIDCooper Medical College, S. F.
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BONTE, MISS FANNIE S.....Sacramento
BRANDON, F. D.....Emma Spreckels Building, S. F.
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BURT, MISS LILLIAN.....Library, University of California
- CARROLL, MISS JESSIE A.....Library, University of California
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CLARK, GEORGE T.....Public Library, San Francisco
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- DOERFLING, MRS. R. G.....Mechanics' Institute, S. F.
DOYLE, MISS GERTRUDE.....Public Library, Vallejo
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 GOSS, MISS EDNA I.....Library, University of California
 GRAFF, ULRICHLibrary, University of California
 GRAVES, FRANK B.....Public Library, Alameda
 GREENE, CHARLES S.....Public Library, Oakland
 GREENE, MISS LILLIAN P.....Library, Leland Stanford Jr.
 University

HADDEN, MISS ANNE.....Public Library, Palo Alto
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 M.A. K. Smiley Library, Redlands
 HUNTINGTON, MISS STELLA.....Library, State Normal School,
 San Francisco
 HUNTLEY, MISS MABEL G.....Public Library, Sacramento
 HYDE, MISS MARY E.....California Academy of Sciences,
 San Francisco

JACOBS, MRS. MARGARET E.....Goodman Free Library, Napa
 JAYNE, J. P.....Booklovers' Library, S. F.
 JONES, MISS MARY L.....Public Library, Los Angeles
 JONES, DR. P. M.....Affiliated Colleges, S. F.
 JUDD, N. J.....21 First Street, S. F.

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 KUMLI, MISS BERTHAPublic Library, Santa Rosa

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 LAYMAN, J. D.....Library, University of California
 LEASK, SAMUELSanta Cruz
 LICHTENSTEIN, JOYPublic Library, San Francisco

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 LOY, WILLIAM E.....405 Sansome Street, S. F.
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 San Francisco
 MANN, MISS HATTIE M.....Public Library, Stockton
 MARTENS, MISS J.....Public Library, San Francisco
 MARTIN, MISS N. M.....Public Library, Pasadena
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 MASLIN, E. W.....Public Library, Alameda
 MAXWELL, MISS M.....Public Library, McCreery
 Branch, S. F.
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 ROBERTSON, A. M.....126 Post Street, S. F.
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 SMITH, ARTHUR B.....Library, University of California
 SMITH, MISS KATE.....Cloverdale, Sonoma County
 SMITH, MISS S. T.....Library, Normal School, Chico
 SNELLING, J. F.....Payot, Upham & Co., S. F.
 STOVALL, J. B.....Library, Wells, Fargo & Co.,
 San Francisco

STURGES, MISS E. J.....Public Library, San Francisco
SUBERS, MARY E.....Public Library, Marysville
SINSHEIMER, MRS. A. Z.....Public Library, San Luis Obispo

TANDY, FRANCIS D.....Rialto Building, San Francisco
TAYLOR, MISS HARRIET M.....Oakland Public Library
TEGGART, FREDERICK J.....Mechanics' Institute, S. F.
THOMPSON, MISS KATHLEEN C.....Mechanics' Institute, S. F.
TRADER, HARROLD E.....Library, Leland Stanford Jr.
University
TURNER, J.819 19th Street, Sacramento

VINING, E. P.....3447 Clay Street, S. F.

WALKER, MISS MARY A.....San Diego
WARD, E. F.....Public Library, Escondido
WATERMAN, MISS MINERVA.....Public Library, Santa Cruz
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